

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Patent Application of

MAERTENS et al

09/873224

Atty. Ref.: 2752-45

(Divisional of Serial No. 09/638,693)

Group: Unassigned

Serial No. To be Assigned

Filed: June 5, 2001

Examiner: Unassigned

For: NEW SEQUENCES OF HEPATITIS C VIRUS GENOTYPES AND THEIR USE OF
THERAPEUTIC AND DIAGNOSTIC AGENTS

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June 5, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Kindly preliminarily amend the above-referenced application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly cancel claims 1-23, without prejudice.

Kindly add the following new claims:

--24. (new) An isolated polynucleic acid sequence consisting of 8 or more contiguous nucleotides selected from an HCV subtype 3c genomic sequence selected from the region spanning positions 1 to 957 of the Core of Core/E1 region of HCV subtype 3c, wherein said polynucleic acid sequence is capable of hybridizing to HCV type 3c, but not another type or subtype of HCV; or

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